

AL-IV-A-086

1839; 1875

First Presbyterian Church
(and site of older church)
11-17 Washington Street
(older church site on Liberty Street)
Cumberland

In 1802, the Maryland Legislature provided for the incorporation of a Presbyterian Church in Cumberland. A log church owned by the Lutherans was used in 1810, with the Rev. Mr. Porter presiding. In 1817, local Presbyterians were using an Episcopal church on the grounds of Fort Cumberland. In 1834, the Rev. S.H. McDonald formulated plans for building a Presbyterian Church. A Lot 99, on Washington Street, was devised to the congregation by Richard Beall in 1836, but it was later sold. In 1837, the congregation was incorporated, and moved to buy a lot on North Liberty Street, on the site of the present Fort Cumberland Hotel parking lot. A church was completed here in 1839, and an addition made to it in 1846.

In 1862, the Board of Trustees received a request from Rev. Andrews, Chaplain of the 126th Regiment Volunteers, "for the use of the church for the purpose of holding services." The request was granted, but in December of that same year, a terse order was received from Capt. G.W. Harrison, QM, directing that the church be delivered to George Oliver, Surgeon, to be used as an army hospital. The Civil War Centennial Committee dedicated a plaque on the site on Oct. 24, 1965. It reads:

MILITARY HOSPITAL

ON THIS SITE STOOD
THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURING THE CIVIL WAR
IT WAS USED AS A MILITARY HOSPITAL
(dedicated Oct. 24, 1965)

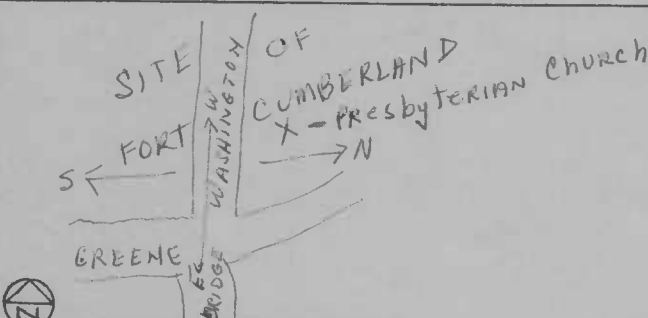
In 1865, the scattered congregation began to regather. The building, having been found to be irreparably damaged, was sold to the Zion German Reformed Church in 1871. It has since been demolished.

On June 20, 1870, the congregation purchased back Lot 99 on Washington Street, and in 1872, the cornerstone was laid for the new structure, which cost \$47,035.44. In 1873, the lecture room was completed, and services were held there. In June of 1875 the church was dedicated with the exception of the tower.

Facing south, the current First Presbyterian is a gable-front, Gothic Revival stone church, with a corner entrance/bell tower with a pyramidal roof and tall octagonal spire, very like Emmanuel Episcopal Church across Washington Street. The church appears to have (from a 1910 postcard) stone buttresses along its east and west sides.

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Allegany TOWN Cumberland VICINITY Fort Cumberland STREET NO. 15 Washington St. ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE PRESENT OWNER Presbyterian Church PRESENT USE Religious WALL CONSTRUCTION Stone NO. OF STORIES	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY AL-45 2. NAME FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (SITE) DATE OR PERIOD 1872 STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE
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4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION	OPEN TO PUBLIC Yes
<p>1802--Maryland Legislature provided for the incorporation of a Presbyterian Church in Cumberland.</p> <p>1810--Used the Log Church of the Lutherans with Rev. Mr. Porter presiding.</p> <p>1817--Using Church on Fort Cumberland grounds (Episcopalian).</p> <p>1834--Rev. S. H. McDonald formulated plans for Church.</p> <p>1836--Richard Beall devised lot 99 to congregation, who later sold it.</p> <p>1837--Congregation incorporated. Moved to buy a lot on N. Liberty S.</p> <p>1839--Church completed on N. Liberty Street.</p> <p>1846--Addition added.</p> <p>1862--Board of Trustees received a request from Rev. Andrews, Chaplain of the 126th Regiment Volunteers, "for the use of the church for the purpose of holding services". Request granted.</p> <p>1862--Dec., Terse order from Capt. G.W. Harrison, QM, directing that the church be delivered to George Oliver, Surgeon, to be used as an army hospital.</p> <p>wording on plaque erected by Civil War Centennial Committee: MILITARY HOSPITAL</p> <p>ON THIS SITE STOOD THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DURING THE CIVIL WAR IT WAS USED AS A MILITARY HOSPITAL (dedicated Oct. 24, 1965)</p> <p>1865--Scattered congregation began to regather. Building found to be irreparably damaged--sold to Zion German Reformed-1871.</p> <p>--over--</p>	
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE	Endangered Interior V. Good Exterior Excellent

 6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. Data-C-W Plaque Paper, Ruth Clauson and Hazel G. Hansrote, collection of church collection	9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Hazel Groves Hansrote, Chairman Maryland Historical Trust Sec. Preservation Society Allegany County DATE OF RECORD Oct. 9, 1970	

1. STATE <u>Maryland</u> COUNTY <u>Allegany</u> TOWN <u>Cumberland</u> VICINITY STREET NO. <u>S Washington St.</u> ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE PRESENT OWNER PRESENT USE WALL CONSTRUCTION NO. OF STORIES		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>AL-45</u>	
		2. NAME <u>First Presbyterian Church</u> DATE OR PERIOD <u>1870's (SITE)</u> STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER	
		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>(17B.) <u>First Presbyterian Church</u> <i>site in new corner Liberty & Baltimore</i> <u>AL-45A</u> This was one of the first churches built in Cumberland and it served a large and active congregation for many years. It was constructed in the early 19th Century, and during the Civil War its rooms were used as hospital facilities for the Union soldiers who occupied the city. It was located on the site of the present Fort Cumberland Hotel parking lot on Liberty Street. The church building has been demolished. A marker is needed.</p> </div>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior			
Source: <u>Historic Landmarks in Allegany County</u> ; a staff report by the Allegany County Planning & Zoning Commission, Cumberland, Maryland, Jan. 1965			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER DATE OF RECORD	



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First Presbyterian Church (1875)
11-17 Washington Street
Cumberland Quad. 1949. 1981

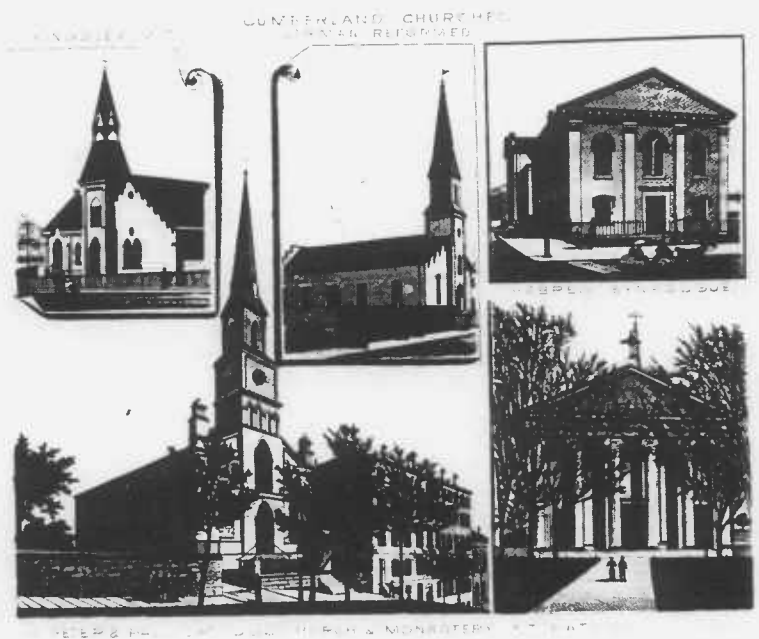
Site of 1839 Church

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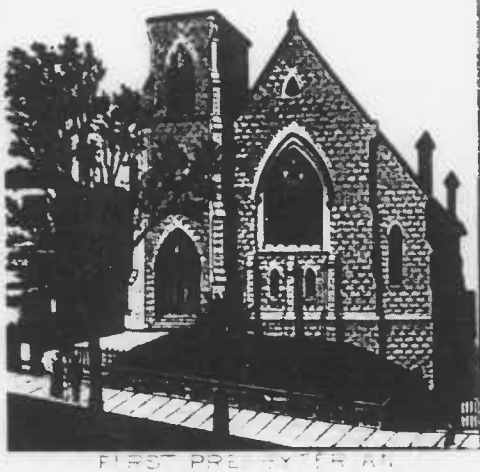
First Presbyterian Church
11-17 Washington Street



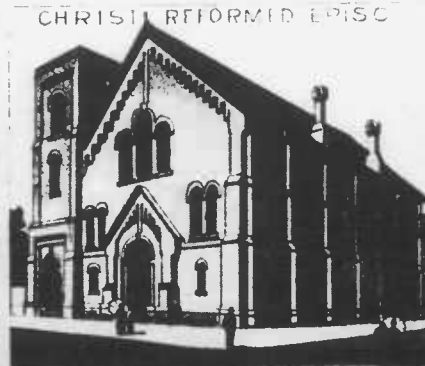
*Drawings of Cumberland's churches
as they appeared in a travel
brochure at the turn of the century.*

Brochure courtesy of
Mr. and Mrs. Blaine Gallimore.

1875 Church



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHRIST REFORMED EPISC



FIRST BAPTIST



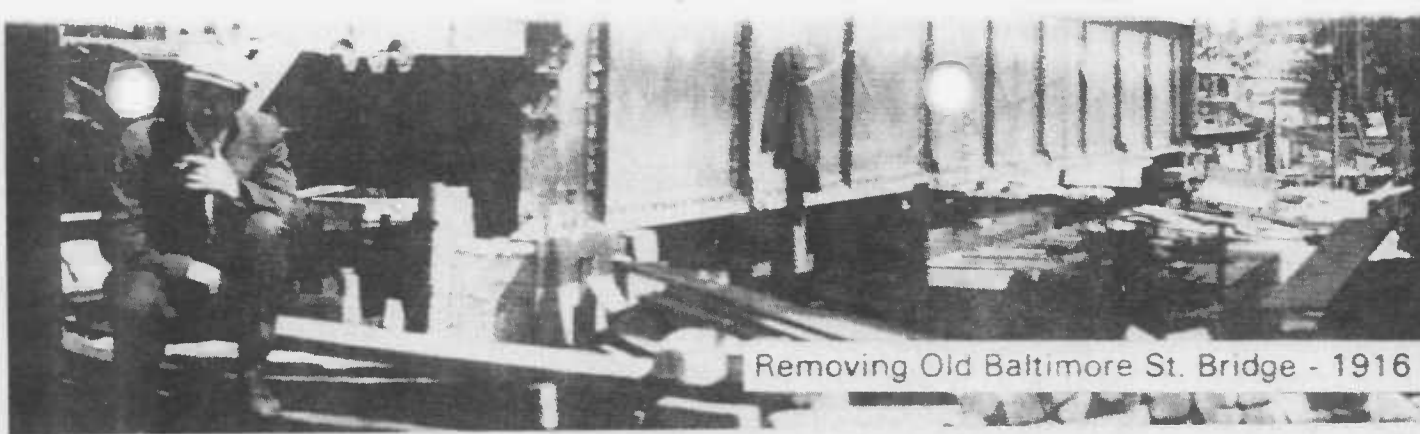
GERMAN LUTHERAN



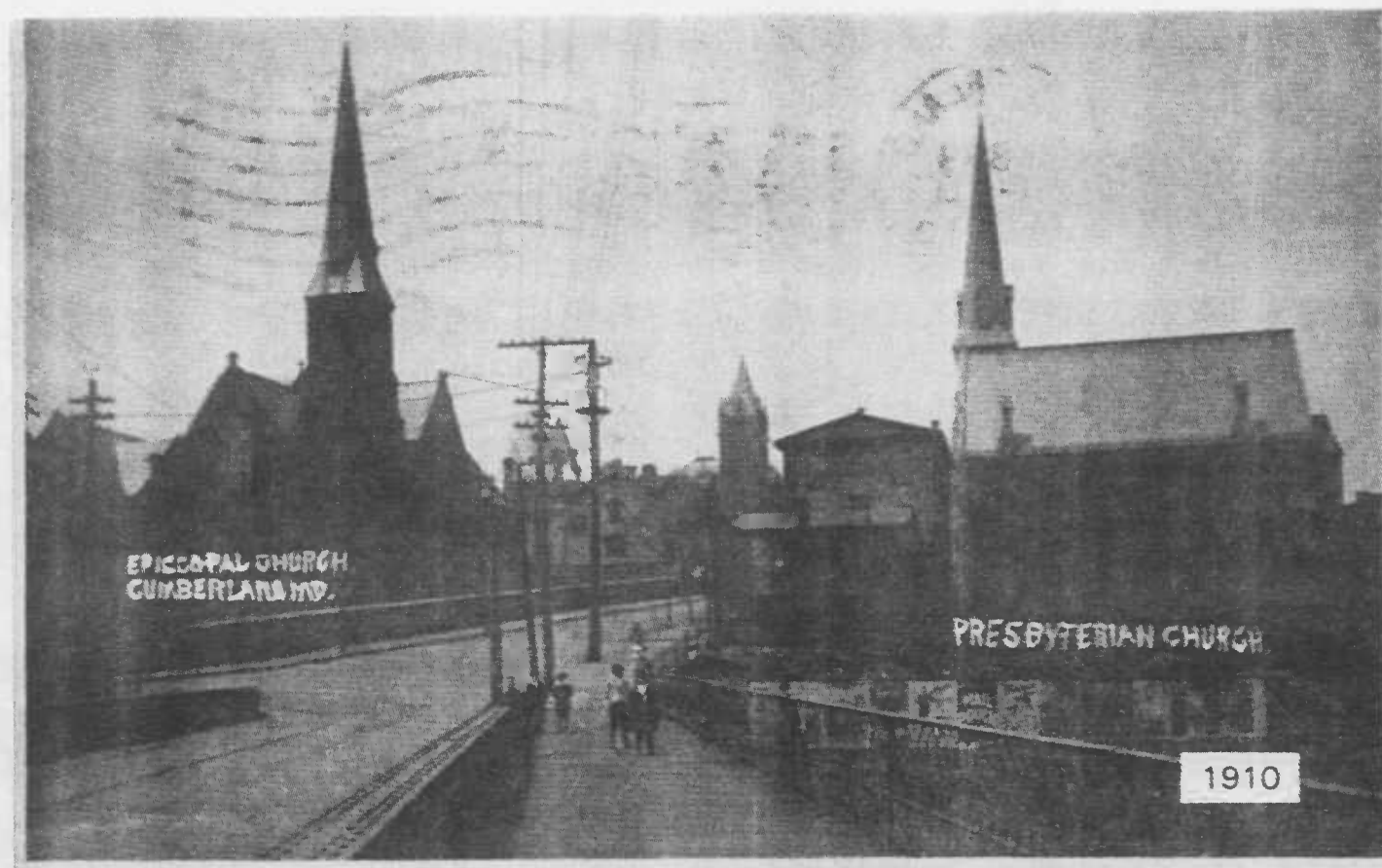
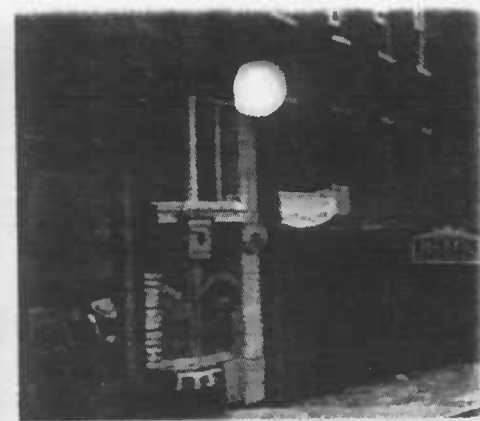
ENGLISH LUTHERAN



CENTRE STREET M.E.



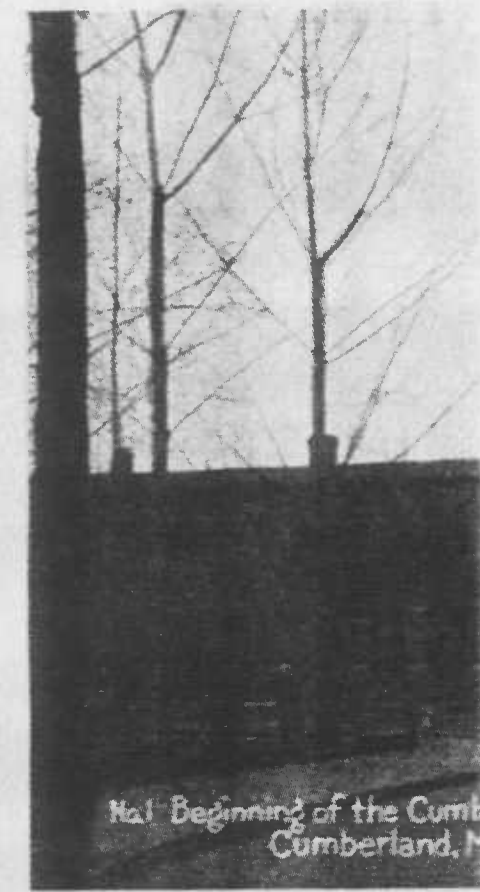
Removing Old Baltimore St. Bridge - 1916



EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CUMBERLAND MD.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1910



Hall Beginning of the Cumb
Cumberland, M

Feldstein, Albert L.

1985 Historic Postcard Album of Allegany County. Cumberland: Commercial Press Printing Co. P. 9

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EMMANUEL

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

